



കേരള ഗസറ്റ് KERALA GAZETTE

അസാധാരണം EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Animal Husbandry(G) Department

NOTIFICATION

G.O(P)No.11/2024/AHD

31st August 2024

S. R. O. No. 775/2024

Thiruvananthapuram

WHEREAS, under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009 (Central Act 27 of 2009), the State Government may, with the object of preventing, controlling or eradicating any scheduled disease, by notification declare any area to be a controlled area in respect of any



scheduled disease affecting any species of animal and any other species that may be susceptible to the disease specified in the said notification;

AND WHEREAS, under the provision of sub-section (3) of section 6 of the above said Act, where a notification has been issued under sub-section (1), all animals of the species in the controlled area shall be subjected to compulsory vaccination against that disease, in such manner and within such time as the State Government, may, by public notice, direct;

AND WHEREAS, under the provision of sub-section (4) of section 6 of the above said Act, the State Government shall make available necessary vaccine and it shall be obligatory on the part of every owner, or the person in charge of the animal which are required to be vaccinated under sub-section (3), to get the animal compulsorily vaccinated;

AND WHEREAS, Avian Influenza caused by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus is a highly infectious disease of poultry capable of causing heavy mortality. This economically important disease is also zoonotic. Avian Influenza is a notifiable disease under the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) regime. Avian Influenza is also a scheduled disease under the above said Act;

AND WHEREAS, Avian Influenza was first reported in the state especially in Kuttanad Wetlands in the year 2014 to 2016, 2020 to 2023. The latest outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in 2024 was confirmed on 16th April, 2024 at Ward 1 Edathua, Alappuzha District and all control and containment measures were carried out in accordance with the action plan for prevention, control and containment of Avian Influenza (revised 2021) and as per the directives received from Government of India vide Letter No. K-11053/48/2024-AHC dated 18th April, 2024 of Government of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department;



AND WHEREAS, series of outbreaks have been reported in the Districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta in and around the Kuttanad wetland where traditional duck farming is practiced. Since mid of April of 2024 the disease has been confirmed in 38 epicenters by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal and broiler chicken and quail farms have also been affected this year, a crow tested positive for HPAI on 12th June, 2024 and till date, 19 samples from free flying, peri-domestic birds and wild birds have tested Positive for HPAI. Hence, the Government of India on 13th June, 2024, issued separate directives on dealing with the confirmed cases in free flying peri- domestic birds. A central team led by the Animal Husbandry Commissioner (DAHD), Government of India, with scientists from National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases -NIHSAD, Bhopal visited the affected area and took stock of the situation for evaluation.

AND WHEREAS, due to the alarming increase in the number of epicenters, the Government of Kerala constituted a State Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive evaluation of the reasons for the frequent occurrence of Avian Influenza disease in the State, the reasons for the infections in new places, the connection with the arrival of migratory birds etc. Vide G.O.(Rt.)No.339/2024/AHD dated 19th June, 2024. The State level Expert Committee has submitted a report to the Government on 6th July, 2024, recommending steps to be taken for the prevention, control and monitoring of the scheduled disease;

AND WHEREAS, taking into account the recurrent seasonal outbreaks of HPAI in the State, the rapid spread of the disease since the mid of April, 2024 and the spill over to peri-domestic free flying and wild birds, Government of India had provided a comprehensive strategy for the control and containment of Avian Influenza for the State as a one time strategy to address the spate of outbreaks in the three districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta and the seasonal recurrence of the bird flu in and around Kuttanad Wetlands;

AND WHEREAS, as per Letter No.K-11053/48/2024/AHC dated 8th July, 2024 from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department, Government of India



directives and the recommendation of the State level Expert Committee, immediate steps are warranted for passive thinning of the host poultry population in the affected areas, inter alia to aid the control and containment of Bird Flu. Notification of controlled area under the provisions of the above said Act and imposing restrictions on hatchery operations and fresh stocking of live poultry for rearing in the controlled area are urgent interventions required to check the addition of fresh poultry (viral host) numbers for rearing in the affected areas in the interest of continued disease control and containment areas;

AND WHEREAS, as per the National Action Plan the outbreak site where samples tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza by NIHSAD is designated as epicentre of the outbreak. The area within one kilometre radius around the epicenter is the “Infected Zone” and rest of the area within a ten kilometre radius around the epicenter is the “Surveillance Zone”. Currently 38 epicentres have been confirmed as positive for HPAI. At present, the whole district of Alappuzha, entire Taluks of Vaikom, Changanassery and Kottayam in Kottayam district, the entire Taluk of Thiruvalla, Pallickal and Thumpamon Grama Panchayat and Pandalam Municipality in Adoor Taluk, Aranmula, Kozhencherry, Kulanada, Mallapuzhassery and Mezhuveli Grama Panchayat in Kozhencherry Taluk and Kalluppara, Kunnamthanam, Mallappally, and Puramattom Grama Panchayat in Mallappally Taluk in Pathanamthitta District and Amballoor, Udayamperoor Edakkattuvayal and Chellanam Grama Panchayat in Ernakulam District fall within the surveillance zones as per the National Action Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009 (Central Act 27 of 2009), the Government of Kerala, hereby declare the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in ducks, free flying birds, poultry farms etc. in the Scheduled areas based on confirmatory laboratory reports communicated by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal where samples were tested and in order to prevent the spread



of the disease causing wide spread morbidity and mortality, it is essential that all persons are following the guidelines and advisories as issued by the Authority entrusted by the Government from time to time and stringent action is taken against persons who are not following the guidelines thereby causing wide spread of the disease. Further, the Government have issued instructions in accordance with the directives of Government of India and the Report of the State Level Expert Committee mentioned in the Annexure thereto in the scheduled areas implement with immediate effect;

SCHEDULE

Sl.No	Name of Municipality/ Panchayat	Name of Taluk	Name of District
1	The whole districts of Alappuzha		Alappuzha
2		Entire Taluks of Vaikkom Changanasserry and Kottayam	Kottayam
3	Pallickal, and Thumpamon Grama Panchayat, Pandalam Municipality, Adoor Municipality, Aranmula, Kazhencherry, Kulanada, Mallappuzhassery, Mezhuveli Grama Panchayat Kallooppara, Kunnamthanam, Mallappally & Puramattom	Adoor, Kozhencherry	Pathanamthitta



	Grama Panchayat	Mallappally	
4	Amballur, Udayamperoor, Edakkattuvayal and Chellanam Grama Panchayat		Ernakulam

ANNEXURE

(A) Restrictions imposed in the infected and the surveillance zones as per the National Action Plan for prevention, control and containment of Avian Influenza (Revised in 2021).

The following restrictions on hatchery and associated poultry (ducks, chicken, quails etc.) operations shall implement with immediate effect upto 31st December, 2024.

Sl.No.	
1	No day old chicks or ducklings or quails shall be supplied (within or outside the State) from any Hatchery located in the said controlled area until further orders.
2	No day old chicks or ducklings or quails shall be supplied by any Hatchery / Company / Integrator / Farmer / any person in the said controlled area until further orders.
3	Eggs in setters and hatchers in all hatcheries in the Controlled Area shall be destroyed forthwith and disposed scientifically. Compensation at the rate of Rs. 5/- per egg shall be paid for chicken and duck eggs .
4	Hatcheries having live breeder stock shall not set eggs for hatching until further orders. They may sell eggs only as table eggs within the surveillance zone in the Controlled area.
5	Eggs set for hatching, if any, after the date of this order shall be destroyed and the custodian/hatchery operator shall not be entitled to any compensation.



6	All the hatcheries in the Controlled Area shall be inspected (following sanitary protocols), as often as necessary, to ensure compliance of these orders and report violation to the State Animal Husbandry Department and District Collector, who shall initiate criminal proceedings as provided in Chapter 5 of the said Act.
7	Hatcheries without breeder stock (live birds) shall be closed forthwith and shall remain closed until further orders.
8	Resumption of hatchery operations will be ordered after periodical assessment of the possibilities of resurgence of outbreaks and relative epidemiological safety of the Kuttanad wetlands for fresh stocking of poultry
9	Hatching, distribution, trading and rearing of day old chicks, ducklings and quails in the controlled area after the date of this order shall be punishable offences under the said Act. Hatchery operator, integrator / trader and farmer shall be liable for penal consequences under this Act. The Authorities acting under the Act are empowered to cull such day old birds as per procedure and in such instances the owner/custodian shall not be entitled to any compensation.
10	No day-old chicks / duckling / quails shall be placed by any trader / farmer / integrator / company for rearing in the Controlled area until further orders.
11	Farmers already rearing adult stock (layers and breeders) shall ensure strict bio-security measures to avoid outbreaks. No eggs produced in the Controlled area shall be set for hatching. Eggs produced shall be used only for table purpose within the respective surveillance zone.
12	There shall be no fresh stocking of poultry for rearing in the Controlled areas brought from outside the Controlled areas until further orders. Movement of poultry from outside the controlled areas for the purpose of rearing in the controlled area is prohibited as per section 7 of the said Act.
13	Poultry for rearing sourced within the controlled area shall not be taken out of the controlled area to areas outside the controlled area for rearing
14	Poultry for rearing sourced within the Surveillance Zone shall not be taken out of the Surveillance Zone to areas outside the Surveillance Zone for rearing.

(B). On the basis of the Directives of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department, Government of India and the recommendation of State Level Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Kerala, the following instructions also implement with immediate effect;



. All the Veterinary officers of the state Animal Husbandry Department are hereby notified and authorised to undertake inspections and all such measures necessary for the control and containment of Avian Influenza within the local limits of jurisdiction conferred under clause (a) and (b) of the above said Act.

2. Veterinary Officer or other competent officer may enter upon and inspect any land or building or place, vessel or vehicle, for the purpose of ensuring compliance of these orders, by the persons responsible for such compliance conferred under section 19 of the above said Act.

(3) All Municipal, Panchayat, Village Officers and all officers of the Rural Development Department, Dairy Development Department, Revenue Department, Agriculture Department and Animal Husbandry Department of the State Government shall be bound under the provisions of section 30 of the above said Act.

(4) All District Collectors in the State are hereby to ensure effective co-ordination among all the Departments and the agencies concerned for the effective enforcement of these orders.

(5) Every owner or any other person, Non Governmental Organisation, public bodies or the Village Panchayat, in-charge of any animal which he or has reason to believe to be infective of a scheduled disease shall report the fact to the the Village Officer or Village Panchayat in charge, who may report the same in writing to the nearest available Veterinarian and shall comply with the procedure mentioned in section 4 of the above said Act.

(6) The Director may establish quarantine camps and check posts within the State as mentioned in section 14 of the said Act. The manner of inspection and the period of detention at a check post or at quarantine camp shall be in accordance with the rules of the Kerala Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (Check Post and Quarantine Camp, Manner of Inspection) Rules, 2014.



(7) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Act and Rules or obstructs the Competent Officer in performing his duties shall be proceeded and punished accordingly as per the provisions mentioned in section 32 of the above said Act. Where an offence under this Act is committed by a Company, it shall be liable to be proceeded and punished under section 34 of the above said Act.

By order of the Governor,
PRANABJYOTI NATH,
Secretary to Government.

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

Avian Influenza caused by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus is a highly infectious disease of poultry capable of causing heavy mortality. This economically important disease is also zoonotic. Avian Influenza is a notifiable disease under the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) regime. Avian Influenza is also a scheduled disease under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contiguous Diseases in Animals Act, 2009 (Central Act 27 of 2009). Avian Influenza was first reported in the state especially in Kuttanad Wetlands in the year 2014 to 2016, 2020 to 2023. The latest outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in 2024 was confirmed on 16th April, 2024 at Ward 1 Edathua, Alappuzha District and all control and containment measures were carried out in accordance with the action plan for prevention, control and containment of Avian Influenza (revised 2021) and as per the directives received from Government of India vide Letter No. K-11053/48/2024-AHC dated 18th April, 2024 of Government of India, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department. The series of outbreaks have been reported in the Districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and



Pathanamthitta in and around the Kuttanad wetland where traditional duck farming is intensely practiced. Since mid of April of 2024 the disease has been confirmed in 38 epicenters by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal and broiler chicken and quail farms have also been affected this year, a crow tested positive for HPAI on 12th June, 2024 and till date, 19 samples from free flying, peri-domestic birds and wild birds have tested positive for HPAI. Hence, the Government of India on 13th June, 2024, issued separate directives on dealing with the confirmed cases in free flying peri-domestic birds. A central team led by the Animal Husbandry Commissioner (DAHD), Government of India, with scientists from National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases -NIHSAD, Bhopal visited the affected area and took stock of the situation for evaluation. Due to the alarming increase in the number of epicenters, the Government of Kerala constituted a State Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive evaluation of the reasons for the frequent occurrence of Avian Influenza disease in the State, the reasons for the infections in new places, the connection with the arrival of migratory birds etc. Vide G.O.(Rt.)No.339/2024/AHD dated 19th June, 2024. The State level Expert Committee has submitted a report to the Government on 6th July, 2024 and recommended steps to be taken for the prevention, control and monitoring of the scheduled disease. Taking into account the recurrent seasonal outbreaks of HPAI in the State, the rapid spread of the disease since the mid of April, 2024 and the spill over to peri-domestic free flying and wild birds, Government of India had provided a comprehensive strategy for the control and containment of Avian Influenza for the State as a one time strategy to address the spate of outbreaks in the three districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta and the seasonal recurrence of the bird flu in and around Kuttanad Wetlands. As per Letter No.K-11053/48/2024/AHC dated 8th July, 2024 from the Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department, Government of India directives and the recommendation of the State level Expert Committee, immediate steps are warranted for passive thinning of the host poultry population in the affected areas, inter alia to aid the control and containment of Bird Flu. Notification of controlled area under the provisions



of the above said Act and imposing restrictions on hatchery operations and fresh stocking of live poultry for rearing in the controlled area is an urgent intervention required to check the addition of fresh poultry (viral host) numbers for rearing in the affected areas in the interest of continued disease control and containment areas. As per the National Action Plan the outbreak site where samples tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza by NIHSAD is designated as epicentre of the outbreak. The area within one kilometre radius around the epicenter is the “Infected Zone” and rest of the area within a ten kilometre radius around the epicenter is the “Surveillance Zone”. Currently 38 epicentres have been confirmed as positive for HPAI. At present, the whole district of Alappuzha, entire Taluks of Vaikom, Changanassery and Kottayam in Kottayam districts the entire Taluk of Thiruvalla, Pallickal and Thumpamon Grama Panchayat and Pandalam Municipality in Adoor Taluk, Aranmula, Kozhencherry, Kulanada, Mallapuzhassery and Mezhuveli Grama Panchayat in Kozhencherry Taluk and Kalluppara, Kunnamthanam, Mallappally, and Puramattom Grama Panchayat in Mallappally Taluk in Pathanamthitta District and Amballoor, Udayamperoor Edakkattuvayal and Chellanam Grama Panchayat in Ernakulam District fall within the surveillance zones as per the National Action Plan. The Government have examined the matter in detail and hereby declare the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in ducks, free flying birds, poultry farms etc. in the Scheduled areas based on confirmatory laboratory reports communicated by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal where samples were tested and in order to prevent the spread of the disease, causing wide spread morbidity and mortality, it is essential that all persons are following the guidelines and advisories as issued by the Authority entrusted by the Government from time to time and stringent action is taken against persons who are not following the guidelines thereby causing wide spread of the disease. Hence this notification.

The notification is intended to achieve the above objects.

